

Application No.: 10/774,264
Amendment dated January 4, 2006
Reply to Office Action of October 4, 2005

Amendments to the Claims

The following claim listing reflects the status of the claims pending in this application.

1. **(Currently amended)** An arrangement for connecting decorative ornaments, the arrangement comprising:
 - a first ornament having at most a first aperture and a second aperture;
 - a second ornament having at least most a first aperture and a second aperture; and
 - a first wire connector having a first end adapted to be mounted to the first aperture of the first ornament and a second end adapted to be mounted to the first aperture of the second ornament[,] ; and
 - a second wire connector having a first end adapted to be mounted to the second aperture of the first ornament and a second end adapted to be mounted to the second aperture of the second ornament;

whereby the second aperture of the first ornament is laterally disposed from the first aperture of the first ornament.
2. **(Cancelled)**
3. **(Previously presented)** The arrangement as recited in claim 1, wherein the second aperture of the second ornament is laterally disposed from the first aperture of the second ornament.
4. **(Original)** The arrangement as recited in claim 1, wherein the second aperture of the first ornament is opposite the first aperture of the first ornament.
- 5-6. **(Cancelled)**

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7. (**Currently amended**) The arrangement as recited in claim 1, wherein the second end of the first wire connector is inserted into the first aperture of the second ornament and the second end of the second wire connector is inserted into the first aperture of the second ornament.

8. (**Cancelled**)

9. (**Original**) The arrangement as recited in claim 1, further comprising at least a third ornament having at least one aperture and at least one third connector connecting the second ornament and the third ornament.

10. (**Currently amended**) The arrangement as recited in claim 1, wherein at least the first wire connector comprises at least one pre-formed U-shaped connector having ends adapted to be inserted into and secured to an aperture of an ornament.

11. (**Cancelled**)

12. (**Currently amended**) The arrangement as recited in claim 1, wherein the decorative ornaments comprises one or more [of] beads, crystals, stones, and gems.

13. (**Currently amended**) The arrangement as recited in claim 1, wherein at least the first wire connector comprises a metallic wire having a diameter between about 0.0625 inches and about 0.125 inches.

14. (**Currently amended**) The arrangement as recited in claim 1, wherein the first ornament and the second ornament comprise octagonal ornaments ~~having two through holes~~.

15-22. (**Cancelled**)

23. (**Original**) An arrangement for hanging one or more decorative ornaments, the arrangement comprising:

at least one ornament having a first aperture and a second aperture; and

at least one hook having a first end adapted to be inserted and secured to the first aperture of the ornament, a second end adapted to be inserted and secured to the second aperture of the ornament, and a loop positioned between the first end and the second end, the loop adapted to be hung from a support;

wherein, when hung by the loop, the second aperture of the ornament is laterally disposed from the first aperture of the ornament.

24. (*Previously Presented*) The arrangement as recited in claim 23, wherein the one or more decorative ornaments comprise one or more of beads, crystals, stones, and gems.

25. (*Previously Presented*) The arrangement as recited in claim 23 wherein the at least one hook comprises a wire having a diameter between about 0.0625 inches and about 0.125 inches.

26-28. (*Cancelled*)

29. (*Currently amended*) A device for hanging a decorative ornament on a fixture, the decorative ornament having a mounting hook, the device comprising:

a plate having an outer edge; and

a channel in the plate having an open first end located at the edge of the plate, a closed second end, the channel comprising a horizontal passage and at least one vertical passage located between the open first end and the closed second end;

wherein the channel is adapted to receive the hook of the ornament and support the hook in the closed second end of the channel.

30. (*Previously presented*) The device as recited in claim 29, wherein the channel further comprises an expansion in the vertical passage.

31. (*Original*) The device as recited in claim 29 wherein the closed second end comprises a convergent closed second end.

32. (*Original*) The device as recited in claim 31, wherein the convergent closed second end converges to a point.

33. (*Original*) The device as recited in claim 29, wherein the channel comprises a channel that passes through the thickness of the plate.

34. (*Previously presented*) The device as recited in claim 29, wherein the at least one vertical passage of the channel comprises at least two vertical passages.

35. (*Original*) The device as recited in claim 29, wherein the mounting hook of the ornament comprises a mounting loop.

36. (*Original*) The device as recited in claim 35, wherein the mounting loop comprises a wire mounting loop.

37. (*Previously presented*) An arrangement for mounting a decorative ornament on a fixture, the decorative ornament having a preferred direction of orientation; the arrangement comprising:

a mounting hook adapted to be attached to the decorative ornament;

a plate having a planar surface and an edge; and

a channel in the plate having an open first end located at the edge of the plate, a closed second end, the channel comprising a horizontal passage and at least one vertical passage located between the open first end and the closed second end;

wherein the channel is adapted to receive the hook of the ornament and support the ornament whereby the preferred direction of orientation of the ornament is directed substantially parallel to the planar surface of the plate.

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38. (*Original*) The arrangement as recited in claim 37, wherein the fixture comprises a circular fixture having a radial direction, wherein the planar surface of the plate and the preferred direction of orientation of the ornament are directed in the radial direction of the fixture.

39. (*Original*) The arrangement as recited in claim 37, wherein the ornament comprises a first aperture and a second aperture; and wherein the hook comprises a connector having a first end adapted to be inserted into the first aperture and a second end adapted to be inserted into the second aperture, and a mounting loop located between the first end and the second end, the mounting loop adapted to mount to the channel.

40-49. (*Cancelled*)

50. (*Previously Presented*) The arrangement as recited in claim 1, wherein the first ornament and the second ornament comprise two of a plurality of ornaments providing an ornament chain.

51. (*Previously Presented*) The arrangement as recited in claim 50, wherein the ornament chain is at least 5 feet in length.

52-53. (*Cancelled*)

54. (*Currently amended*) An arrangement for connecting decorative ornaments, the arrangement comprising:

- a first ornament having at most a first aperture and a second aperture;
- a second ornament having at least a first aperture;
- at least a third ornament having at least one aperture; and
- at least one continuous connector passing through an aperture of at least the first ornament, the second ornament, and the third ornament, and wherein

the continuous connector comprises means to engage and secure the first ornament, the second ornament, and the third ornament in spaced relationship with each other;

whereby the second aperture of the first ornament is laterally disposed from the first aperture of the first ornament.

55. (*Previously presented*) The arrangement as recited in claim 54, wherein the at least one continuous connector comprises a connector fabricated from one of sheet and plate.

56. (*Currently amended*) The arrangement as recited in claim 54, wherein the at least one continuous connector comprises at least two continuous connectors.

57. (*Previously presented*) The arrangement as recited in claim 55, wherein the at least one continuous connector fabricated from one of sheet and plate is fabricated by one or more of the following processes: laser cutting, water-jet cutting, and electro-discharge machining.

58. (*Previously presented*) The arrangement as recited in claim 54, wherein the first ornament, second ornament, and third ornament comprise a plurality of ornaments providing an ornament chain.

59. (*Previously presented*) The arrangement as recited in claim 58, wherein the ornament chain is at least 5 feet in length.

60. (*Previously presented*) The device as recited in claim 29, wherein the plate comprises a vertically oriented plate.

61. (*Previously presented*) The device as recited in claim 60, wherein the edge comprises a bottom edge of the vertically oriented plate.

62. (*Previously presented*) The arrangement as recited in claim 37, wherein the channel further comprises an abrupt enlargement in width adapted to obstruct disengagement of the mounting hook from the channel.

63. (*Previously presented*) The arrangement as recited in claim 10, wherein the first connector and the second connector comprise at least one pre-formed U-shaped connector having ends adapted to be inserted into and secured to an aperture of an ornament.

64. (*Previously presented*) The arrangement as recited in claim 13, wherein the first connector and the second connector comprise metallic wire having a diameter between about 0.0625 inches and about 0.125 inches.

65. (*New*) The arrangement as recited in claim 50, wherein the ornament chain comprises a single-row chain of at least 10 ornaments.

66. (*New*) The arrangement as recited in claim 65, wherein the first wire connector and the second wire connector are adapted to reduce the loading on the at least 10 ornaments compared to the loading on ornaments mounted with single wire connectors.

67. (*New*) The arrangement as recited in claim 65, wherein the first wire connector and the second wire connector are adapted to minimize the misalignment of the at least 10 ornaments compared to ornaments mounted with single wire connectors.

68. (*New*) The arrangement as recited in claim 54, wherein the means to engage and secure the first ornament, the second ornament, and the third ornament in spaced relationship with each other consists of deformations in the continuous connector.

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69. (*New*) The arrangement as recited in claim 68, wherein the deformations in the continuous connector comprise elongated loops formed in the continuous connector.